

**Remarks**

Claims 1-2, 7-8, 13-15 and 18 are pending. Claim 18 has been added. Claims 1, 7, 14 and 15 have been amended to delete unelected subject matter. Claims 3-6, 9-12 and 16-17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of any of the canceled claims in one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications.

The subject matter encompassed by the amended and new claims is disclosed by the instant specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

**The Restriction Requirement**

In the Office Action, restriction is required to one of the following groups of invention:

- 1) Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 13-17 drawn to an HCV NS5B protein of SEQ ID NO:1, a DNA encoding the same, and methods of use;
- 2) Claims 1, 3, 7, 9 and 13-17 drawn to an HCV NS5B protein of SEQ ID NO:2, a DNA encoding the same, and methods of use;
- 3) Claims 1, 4, 7, 10 and 13-17 drawn to an HCV NS5B protein of SEQ ID NO:3, a DNA encoding the same, and methods of use;
- 4) Claims 1, 5, 7, 11 and 13-16 drawn to an HCV NS5B protein of SEQ ID NO:4, a DNA encoding the same, and methods of use; and
- 5) Claims 1, 6, 7 and 12-17 drawn to an HCV NS5B protein of SEQ ID NO:5, a DNA encoding the same, and methods of use.

In order to be fully responsive, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I (claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 13-17), to prosecute in the present application without prejudice to prosecution of the subject matter of the non-elected groups in subsequent applications.

**Conclusion**

It is believed that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

**Authorization**

No fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to deposit account 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

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